Lesson: 25

Caring for God's Creation
Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale (May 12, 1820 - August 13, 1910) **revolutionized** the nursing profession and healthcare.

She was born in **Florence, Italy** (which her wealthy parents were visiting) but grew up in England. She was named after the city of her birth. Florence was educated *at* home by her father and was an excellent student, especially in math.

From an early *age, F*lorence wanted to help the sick. Although nursing was not considered an *acceptable* profession for educated women in the mid-1880s, Florence persisted and trained in *Germany* to be a nurse. She then worked as a nurse in London, caring for the very poor.

During the **Crimean** *War* (in which Britain, France, and Turkey fought Russia), Florence was appointed to introduce female nurses to military hospitals in order to improve medical care. In November 1854, she arrived in Turkey with 38 volunteer nurses who she had trained. At first, the male doctors refused to work with female nurses, but the overwhelming number of terribly wounded soldiers caused the doctors to have a change of heart, and the nurses were allowed to work. Their work aided military medical care greatly.

After returning from the war as a **heroine**, Florence continued her work, improving **medical** care and **sanitary** conditions in civilian hospitals in England, and in **1860**, she started a nursing school in London. Florence wrote hundreds of reports, books, and pamphlets on nursing. Nursing had finally become a respectable profession for women.

Florence *Nightingale* died at home at the age of 90. Her *life's* work changed the history of nursing and greatly improved medical care for generations of people.

Date: _____

1. What profession did Florence revolutionize? [1]

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2. During what war did the British begin the use of female nurses? [1]

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3. In what country did Nightingale introduce the use of female nurses in military hospitals? [1]

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4. In what year did Nightingale find a nursing school? [1]

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5. In what year did Nightingale die? [1]

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6. What is the meaning of the word **heroine**? [1]
   (A) A woman who uses drugs
   (B) A drug used in hospitals
   (C) A remarkable, brave woman

7. Florence Nightingale **revolutionized** the nursing profession. What is the meaning of the word revolutionized? [1]
   (A) To change something drastically
   (B) To make nursing move around
   (C) To speak against the nursing profession